For, in my conscience, I was the first man
That e'er received gift from him:
And does he think so backwardly of me now,
That I'll requite it last ? No: So it may prove
An argument of laughter to the rest,
And 1 amongst the lords be thought a fool[8].
I had rather than the worth of thrice the sum,
He had sent to me first, but for my mind's sake ;
I had such a courage[9] to do him good. But now
return,
And with their faint reply this answer join; Who bates mine honour, shall not know my coin.

[Exit.

SERF. Excellent[1]! Your lordship's a goodly villain. The devil knew not what he did, when he made man politick; he crossed himself by't: and I cannot think, but, in the end, the villainies of man will set him clear[2]. How fairly this lord strives to

[8] And I amongst the lords be thought a fool.] [Old copy—
" and *Amongst* lords be thought a fool."] The personal pronoun
was inserted by the editor of the second folio. MALONE.

I have changed the position of the personal pronoun, and added *the* for the sake of metre, which, in too many parts of this play, is incorrigible. STEEVENS.

9I had such a courage —] Such an ardour, such an eager
desire. JOHNSON.

[1] Excellent, &c.] I suppose the former part of this speech to have been originally written in verse, as well as the latter; though the players have printed it as prose (omitting several syllables necessary to the metre) : it cannot now be restored without such additions as no editor is at liberty to insert in the text.

STEEVENS.

1suspect no omission whatsoever here. MALONE.

[2] The devil knew NOT what he did, when he made man poli
tick : he CROSSED himself by't: and I cannot think, but, in the
end, the villainies of man will set him CLEAR.] I cannot but
think, that the negative *not* has intruded into this passage, and
the reader will think so too, when he reads Dr.

Warburton's ex
planation of the next words. JOHNSON.

"—will set him clear." *Set him cigar* does not mean acquit him before heaven; for then *the devil* must be supposed *to know*